Annual Alumni Networking Event

Our annual alumni event was a great success!

The CJ Studies Program welcomed 20 alumni to our networking event held on Friday, October 14th in the Larry Walker Room at Dean Rusk Hall. Students were able to meet and connect with our alumni from different agencies across the criminal justice field.

Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

Dr. Sarah Shannon’s Inside-Out class (SOCl 4470S) took place over eight weeks this spring semester at the Athens-Clarke County Jail. The course is an opportunity for a small group of students from UGA and a group of residents at the jail to exchange ideas and perceptions about crime and justice, the criminal justice system, and imprisonment. The class is built around the value of inclusion because all participants, whether incarcerated or not, are full participants and collaborators in the classroom. All students, whether “inside” or “outside” read the same texts, complete the same assignments, and participate with equal status in the classroom.

You can read the ’zine created by the students ‘to share our experiences and showcase the humanity that connects us all, regardless of our circumstances here.'
2023 Susette M. Talarico Lecture

We were honored to have Jim Newton deliver the annual lecture which is named after an inspiring professor who served as CJSP director for more than 20 years. Mr. Newton is a veteran journalist and author who worked for the LA Times covering the aftermath of the Rodney King beating and has a longtime career writing about police reform.

You can view the lecture here: Talarico Lecture

Susette M. Talarico Award Winner

The winner of the 2023 Susette M. Talarico Public Service Leadership is Riley Meid. Riley impressed the selection committee with her many commitments to public and community service, including serving as Vice President for the UGA Criminal Justice Society student organization. In her application, Riley highlighted that a proposal she wrote for a nonproliferation summer program for Athens high school students was awarded the Senator Sam Nunn Security Leadership Scholarship. According to Riley, “Fission Forward aimed to eliminate barriers to participation in order to address the inaccessibility and gender imbalance of the nuclear security field. Moreover, I ensured that diversity and equity was infused into nuclear security lessons and policy discussion.”

The Susette Talarico Service Leadership Award is given to students who have strong records of service to the community and on campus. Dr. Talarico served as director of the Criminal Justice Studies program for over two decades; she was also the Albert Berry Saye Professor of American Government and Constitutional Law and was awarded the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Professorship for excellence in teaching.
Criminal Justice faculty and staff gathered with family and friends on May 12, 2023 to celebrate our spring and summer graduates.

CJ Service Award Recipients
Jordan Bell
Abigayle Du Chateau
Sydney Sloan
Kyle Venit
“I am the Mental Health Data Support Intern at the Athens-Clarke County Police Department. I assist the Behavioral Health Unit’s Co-Responder teams with data collection and analysis. I also work on mental health special projects as assigned, which thus far have included coordinating mental health grant funding and working on community outreach efforts. Given the unpredictable nature of the BHU, every day is different. Some days, I am creating online surveys for community use and analyzing data, while other days I am able to ride-along with units in the field, observing Co-Responder teams interact with and provide resources for individuals suffering from mental illnesses or substance abuse disorders. I have learned so much about the specific needs Athens-Clarke County has regarding mental illness and substance abuse, and how the Co-Responder model of crisis intervention works to support those needs. I have especially enjoyed my time in the field with BHU officers and have developed a special passion for mental health crisis intervention training (CIT). I look forward to sitting in on a formal CIT program soon!”
Criminal Justice Society

Criminal Justice Society holds bi-weekly meetings with professionals across the criminal justice field. The goal of these meetings is to put the members in contact with different CJ professionals. They also host field trips and give back to the ACC community.

We’d love to have you join the CJ Society! Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month in the Pinnacle Room (480) in Baldwin Hall. For more information, email Morgan Davis at med82694@uga.edu

Jamie Bowers and Emma Moses with US Probation speak with CJ Society members

2023 Criminal Justice Society Officers

President: Morgan Davis
Vice President: Abbie Childers
Networking Coordinator: Megan Kopf
Communications Director: Julia Stewart
Philanthropy Director: Sadie Herkimer
Events Coordinator: Caroline Dixon
Support Criminal Justice Studies

Generous donors have made it possible for CJSP to award over $19,000 in scholarships to CJ majors for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The Susette Talarico fund has supported an annual lecture series on current issues facing practitioners bringing together students, practitioners, and the community. The Talarico fund also provides support to scholarship awards made to criminal justice seniors who have served their community and campus with distinction.

The Doris Porter fund, James T. Morris fund, and Will Bush fund provide support for professional development opportunities, such as field trips and internships. The Sherry Lyons-Williams fund and Kenneth McCarthy fund have awarded scholarships to nearly 50 criminal justice students in the past 15 years. In 2023, we received our first-ever grant from the UGA Parents Leadership Council to support students during their internship semester.

Alumni support is so important for the current and future students of the Criminal Justice Studies Program.

For more information on giving to the program: https://cjstudies.uga.edu/support-criminal-justice-studies

Let's Connect

Follow us on our social media channels to stay up to date on all things CJ!

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